

OUR FLAG

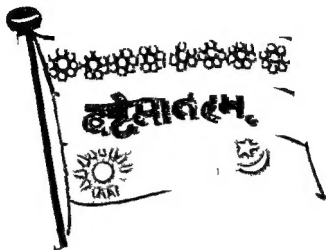
ORIGIN

THE evolution of the Indian National Flag reflects the political history of the country. The various political trends communal tensions waves of enthusiasm can all be seen in the people's attitude to the flag. What the idol is to the worshipper the flag is to the freedom seeker — a tangible symbol of his aspirations.

The first flag in India is said to have been hoisted on August 7 1906 in the Parsee Bagan Square (Green Park) in Calcutta. The flag was composed of horizontal stripes of red yellow and green.

The film is a historical drama. Many believe that the flag was hoisted by P. T. D. B. L.

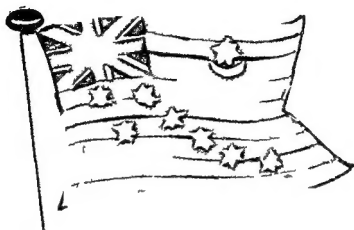
The strip on the top had eight white lotuses embossed on it in a row. On the yellow strip were the words *Bande Mataram* in deep blue Deva nagari script. The last strip had a white sun on the left and a white crescent and a star on the right.



The second flag to be hoisted was by Madame Cama and her band of exiled revolutionaries in Paris in 1907 (according to some in 1905). This was very similar to the first flag except that the top strip had a lotus above with seven stars (the Saptarshi). This flag was exhibited at a socialist conference in Berlin also.



By the time our third flag went up our political struggle had taken a definite shape. During the Home Rule movement Dr Annie Besant and Lokmanya Tilak hoisted it in 1917. This flag had five red and four green horizontal stripes and in the left hand top corner (the pole end) was the Union Jack occupying one fourth of the space and the seven stars in the centre. There was also a crescent and a star in one corner.

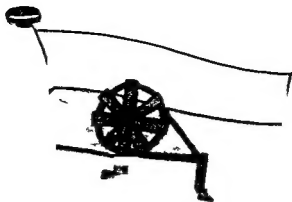


It was a sign of the time. The inclusion of the Union Jack symbolized the ideal of Dominion Status.

The presence of the Union Jack however made it generally unacceptable. The political compromise that it implied was not popular. The call for new leadership brought Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi to the forefront in 1921 and through him the first Tricolour. During the session of the All India Congress Committee meeting at Berwada (now Varanasi) at this time an Andhra youth prepared a flag and brought it to Gandhi. It was two colored—red and green—representing the two major communities. Gandhi, after the addition of a white strip to represent the rest of India's communities and the Charkha—a symbol of progress.

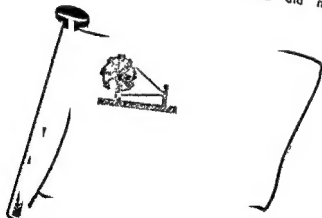
Thus the Tricolour was born but it had not yet been officially adopted by any resolution of the All India Congress Committee. Gandhi made it popular and it was hoisted on all Congress occasions.

In 1931 when the AICC met at Karachi a resolution was passed stressing the need for a flag which would be officially adopted.



Congress There was already considerable controversy over the significance of the colours in the flag. Communal troubles had set in. The two major communities were at the parting of the ways and the stress was on communal interpretation.

Meanwhile a committee of seven was appointed to elicit opinion on the choice of a flag. It suggested a plain saffron flag with a Charkha in reddish brown in the extreme left corner. The AICC did not accept the suggestion.

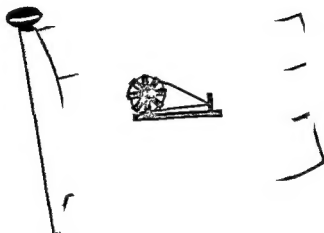


1931 was a landmark in the history of the flag. A resolution was passed adopting a tricolour flag as our National Emblem. This flag the forbear of the present flag was a saffron white and green. It was however

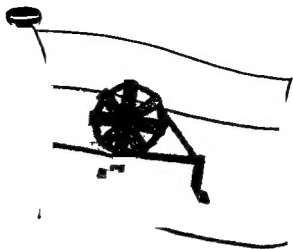
clearly stated that it bore no communal significance and was to be interpreted thus

Saffron for courage and sacrifice
White for truth and peace
Green for faith and chivalry

It also carried a *Charkha* in blue on the white band. The size was three breadths by two breadths

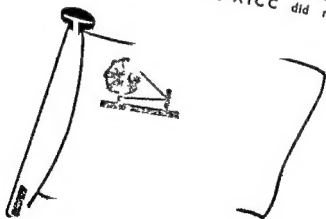


By the above resolution for the first time the flag received official recognition as the National Flag. Henceforward it became our Flag and the symbol of our determination to be free. On July 22, 1947, with the attainment of Independence, the Constituent Assembly adopted it as free India's National Flag. The colours and their significance remain the same. The *Dharma Chakra* of Emperor Asoka was adopted instead of the *Charkha*.



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be there and not the rest of the *Charkha* i.e. the spindle and the stri which created this confusion. The essential part of the *Charkha* should be there—that is the wheel. So the old traditions continue in regard to the *Charkha* and the wheel. But what type of wheel should we have? Our minds went back to many wheels which had appeared in many places and which all of us have seen—the one at the top of the capital of the Asoka column and in many other places. That wheel is a symbol of India's ancient culture. It is a symbol of the many things that India had stood for through the ages.

At the end of the speech Pandit Nehru presented the Flag to the Assembly saying: 'So Sir, now I present to you not only the resolution but the Flag itself.'

There are two of these National Flags before you. One is of silk—the one I am holding—and the other is of cotton. Khadi.

U S E

EVERY free country in the world has an elaborate and rigid etiquette connected with the use of its National Flag. The best way to respect a country's flag is to learn and abide by the formalities laid down regarding its use. The ceremonial attending the hoisting lowering saluting or half masting of the flag must be adhered to by all institutions as well as individuals. The Ministry of Home Affairs and the Armed Forces Headquarters have drawn up the regulations ruling the use of the flag.

An equally important point in our code of honour should be that the material size and colours used in the flag are standardized. Nothing is so undignified or repugnant as a limp discoloured or disproportionately made flag. At the request of the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Army Headquarters the Indian Standards Institution has undertaken to standardize the dyes and colours material constructional details and sizes of the flag.

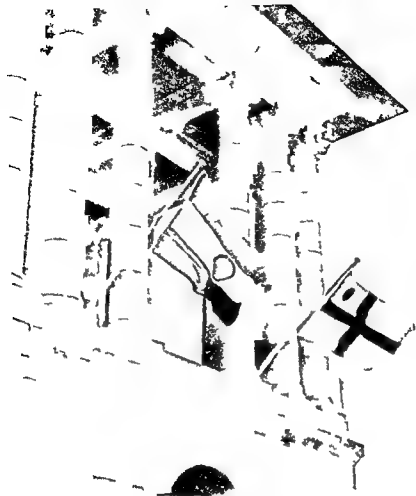
Their specifications cover the essential requirements of the National Flag of India and all flags will have to comply with these specifications. Accordingly it has been provisionally decided that there will be six standard sizes for the flag including those meant for cars. Before a final decision is taken in the matter the dyes and cloth and all other materials needed for a flag will undergo rigid scientific tests including the running out of colours durability of cloth and weaving flaws etc.

By virtue of the resolution of July 22 1947 the Tricolour was accepted as the National Flag of India. The resolution of course furnished no details. As standardization and uniformity are very important for the dignity of a flag the Indian Standards Institution was asked to prepare self contained specifications for our National Flag. These specifications are being worked out and all manufacturers will have to comply with the terms of these specifications.

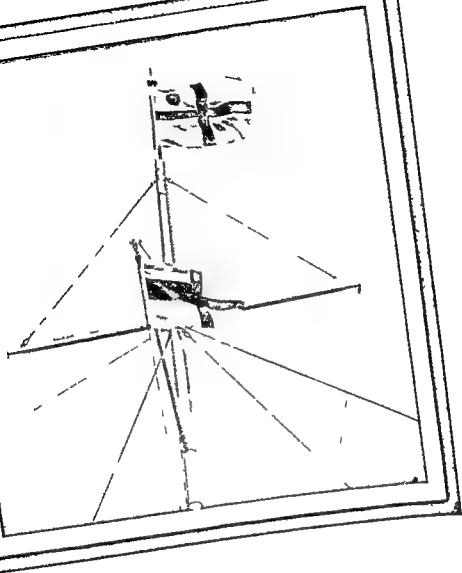
Two of the flag colours have been described as India Saffron and India Green. These two colours do not yet occur in the standard colour tables of the world India Green or India Saffron being peculiar to the National Flag of

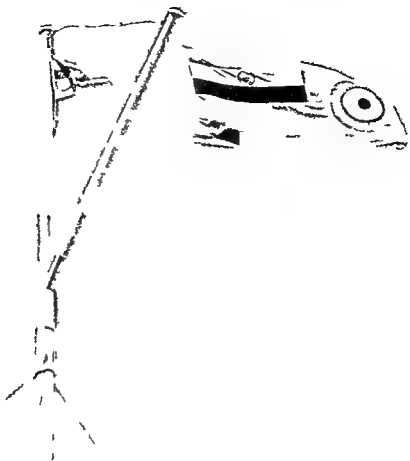


The Connaught Place in London. The
 flag of the United Kingdom is on the left—
 the Indian National Flag is on the right.



The National Flag, and the personal flag of the Commander in Chief Indian Navy, hoisted Vice Admiral Puri's office in New Delhi





*At the I A F Station New Delhi the
Air Force Ensign is worn at the gaff while
the Commanding Officer's rank flag flies
at the mast head*

India will have to be scientifically determined by trichomatic methods and accordingly defined in precise terms in the Indian Colour Standard for the National Flag

There will be a wheel with twenty four spokes in navy blue colour in the centre of the white piece on both sides of the flag. The wheel may be painted printed superimposed or embroidered. The superimposed cloth shall be of the same material as that of the body. The design and make up of the flag will be in accordance with a specified design and in conformity with the sealed sample held in the custody of the Indian Standards Institution.

Our flag has always been of hand spun and hand woven material and as the general sentiment of the people and of the Prime Minister still seems to be for hand spun and hand woven material for the flag the Indian Standards Institution is trying out tests on hand spun cotton silk and woollen materials.

Certain courtesies are due to a National Flag which are recognized all over the world. These are followed in India too and our Government too has laid down the rules regarding the use of our flag.

The President of the Indian Republic like the heads of other States has a special personal flag which is flown along with the National Flag wherever the President happens to be.



Similarly the Governors and the Rajpramukhs are also entitled to personal flags.



Courtesy to National Flag

All flags are placed to the left of the National Flag if they hang in a line. If flags are raised the National Flag is placed higher than the other flags.

When carried in a procession it must be borne high on the right shoulder of the standard bearer and carried in front of the procession.

When the National Flag is raised along with other flags it must be the first to go up and the last to come down. It must never be lowered in the presence of other flags. In the Armed Forces the Flag National India is termed and the Army Flag the White Ensign or the IAF Ensign are hoisted and lowered simultaneously.

At a meeting the Flag should be behind the speaker and high above his head and above all other decorations.

There should be nothing written on the Flag. When a Flag is no longer fit for use it should never be destroyed publicly or used as a rag or thrown in the dust bin.

The Flag should never be a means of adornment. It should not be spread on the speaker's table at a gathering. It should not form borders of sarees or be used as a print pattern or for any other commercial purpose.

In short It should not occur anywhere where it does not serve the purpose of a flag *

Referring to the use of the Flag the Ministry of Home Affairs has issued the following communique and laid down rules of usage although the whole code has not yet been finally adopted

While it was appropriate to use the National Flag on all occasions during the struggle for freedom it is felt that now that freedom has been won there should be well-defined regulations for the use of the Flag as is the practice in other countries

Display on Buildings

1 Normally the Flag should be flown on Important Government buildings at the Centre and in the States such as High Courts Secretariats Commissioners Offices Collectorates Jails and offices of the district boards and municipalities

2 All frontier areas may fly the National Flag at some special point

The following have the privilege of flying the Flag at their residence

1 The Ministers and Speakers of the Central and States Governments

2 The Chairmen of the Upper Chambers wherever they exist

3 The Ministers of State in the Central Government

4 Regional Commissioners Chief Commissioners Commissioners Deputy Commissioners and Collectors of States

5 The Governors of all States have been allowed a personal flag on which will be embossed the name or the emblem of the State they represent This flag will also fly on their residence when on tour and wherever they stay in their State

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6 *Rajpramukhs* may also fly the Flag on their residence together with their own State flags if they so choose

7 India's Representatives in foreign countries should fly the Flag on their residence and also on their office where they are not in the same premises

8 If the President or the Prime Minister or the Deputy Prime Minister while visiting a State stays with the Governor in the Government House his flag or in the case of the Prime Minister and Deputy Prime Minister the National Flag should also be flown on the top of the main building or on the top of the wing where he may reside or in a conspicuous part of the fore court or the main approach

- (a) If the Governor stays in a Circuit House within his State and the President the Prime Minister or the Deputy Prime Minister also stays in the same house as his guest the same practice as above should be followed
- (b) If the President the Prime Minister or the Deputy Prime Minister proceeds to a provincial town where the Governor is not present the President's flag or the National Flag should be conspicuously displayed on the flag staff or on an improvised pole on the top of the residence
- (c) If the President the Prime Minister or the Deputy Prime Minister visits any class of State the same procedure should be followed

9 The use of the Flag by the Army Navy and Air Force is governed by special rules. As will be seen from the various photographs the National Flag is now being incorporated in the Armed Forces flag. So after the 26th January 1950 no separate National Flag will be flown by them

10 On special occasions like the Independence Day celebrations National Week January 26 and Mahatma Gandhi's Birthday as well as any other particular day of national rejoicing the use of the Flag will be unrestricted

Display on Cars

1 The Flag may be flown on the cars of the Cabinet Ministers and Ministers of State Speakers both Central and State Chief Commissioners Regional Commissioners and India's Representatives in foreign countries

2 Deputy Ministers In the Central Government

3 Ruling Princes and Rajpramukhs may also fly the Flag on their
together with their own State flags if they so choose

4 The President and the Governors have their own special flags
the Governors when outside their States should fly the National Flag

5 Chairmen of the Upper Chambers where they exist

Hoisting and Hauling

The hoisting of a flag is a solemn occasion. Though it varies in
detail generally speaking all over the world a flag is hoisted with the singing
of the National Anthem. In civilian life the hoisting of the National Flag is
not a daily routine. It is only on special occasions and on days of national
importance that a flag is hoisted. An important person is invited for the
hoisting ceremony and while the people attending stand respectfully
around the flag with bowed heads and while the National Anthem is
played the flag rope is pulled and very solemnly and slowly the flag goes up.
Great care is taken that the flag does not go up with the wrong colour on
top. If a band happens to be present it plays the National Anthem.
Sometimes the National Anthem is also sung. A very beautiful ceremony
to tie up flowers in a flag and when it goes up and flutters in the wind
the flowers come showering down.

In the Armed Forces however the hoisting of the Flag National India
and their own flag is a daily routine. They have therefore worked out an
elaborate and formal etiquette for the daily hoisting and lowering of a flag.
The three Services differ from each other in the ceremonies connected with
the hoisting and lowering of a flag. However they all play the National
Anthem, they all come to attention and the Officers salute as the National
flag goes up. In cases where two flags are hoisted the National Flag and the
particular Armed Forces Flag both go up and come down simultaneously.

Normally speaking the Flag flies from sunrise to sunset. In the Indian
Navy however it goes up at a fixed time i.e. 8 o'clock in the morning and
comes down at sunset.

Half-mast

In the event of the death of an Important personage or mourning affecting the nation all the National Flags including the Services Flags are brought down to half mast. To bring a flag to half mast it is first hoisted to the close up and then lowered to the half mast. Similarly it is first raised to the close up and then lowered. Even our Embassies in foreign lands and our ships in foreign waters or ports fly the Flag at half mast in courtesy on occasions of mourning in the country where they are located. On such occasions special orders are issued regarding the half masting of the Flag. Sometimes the Flag is flown half mast in the morning but raised to close up in the afternoon.

Just as we make known our grief through the Flag so also we represent through it our jubilation and rejoicing. On special occasions many more flags in varying sizes are put out to denote the festive spirit. Among the Services the most colourful treat is offered by the Navy. A naval ship dressed over all is a beautiful sight. Flags of various colours selected from the Naval Code are put up on dressing lines from end to end of the ship.

In the Services

It is in the Armed Forces that the attitude towards the National Flag has undergone a revolution. With Independence repressed sentiments have been released. The Armed Forces have accepted the National Flag as a proud and conspicuous feature of their life. Again it is in the Armed Forces that the complete regulations regarding the colours are followed. The Services are largely responsible for introducing to the public the correct usage and etiquette of a flag, a strict observance of which is part of their daily drill.

ARMY

The Army Flag is rectangular—scarlet with cross swords and Ashoka lions in the centre in yellow. The Army Flag will be flown

1. At Command Headquarters on such special occasions of purely army character as the G.O.C. in C may decide. It will however not be flown in place of Flag National India at places and on occasions where and when it is now officially flown.
2. by Sports Associations if they care to obtain a flag on payment and on occasions when representative matches are played.



- 3 On all Services buildings where it was customary to fly the Union Jack (Generally speaking all that the Services have to do is to issue directives saying that the Flag National India should be flown wherever the Union Jack flew before)
- 4 At all ceremonial parades where the Union Jack was flown before
- 5 At the residence of Commanders up to and including Sub area and Brigade Commanders
- 6 At the residence of all commandants of Army Headquarter Schools of the rank of Brigade and above
- 7 Formation Headquarters down to and include Bde Sub areas will fly two flags the Flag National India and the Formation Flag



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- 2 by Sports Associations if they care to obtain a flag on payment and on occasions when representative matches are played.

- 2 The appropriate rank flag of the formation or unit commander is to be flown at the mast head and the new I A F Ensign at the peak or gaff
- 3 The I A F Ensign will be hoisted daily at formation Headquarters and Air Force stations if however the station is on a care and maintenance basis the Ensign will not be flown
- 4 The hours for hoisting and hauling down the Ensign will necessarily vary in different places and at different seasons of the year but will be usually at the first convenient morning parade and at the hour for mounting of guards and duties
- 5 Where the Ensign is flown under paragraph 4 it will be hoisted at the peak or gaff It will be hauled down at sunset The formation or unit flag will not be hauled down at sunset
- 6 At the hoisting and hauling down of the Ensign the guard will turn out The following ceremonial will then be carried out
 - (a) Hoisting of Ensign Attention will be ordered or sounded the Ensign hoisted the general salute ordered or sounded and the guard will present arms

(b) Hauling down of Ensign Attention will be ordered or sounded the Ensign hauled down the guard and sentries whose posts are within hearing of the trumpet call or with in sight of the Ensign will present arms Retreat will be sounded

(c) When Attention is ordered or sounded all officers and airmen within hearing will stand at attention face the flag staff and officers will salute whilst the Ensign is being hoisted or hauled down

On occasions of mourning when the Ensign is ordered to be flown at half mast throughout the day it will be hoisted to close up in the morning and immediately lowered to half mast At sunset the Ensign will be hoisted to close up before being hauled down On such occasions the formation or unit commander's flag will remain flying at its original position

8 Instructions for the flying of IAF Ensign at half mast will be issued by IAF Headquarters as and when necessary Officers Commanding will await instructions from this Headquarters

9 On Command Headquarters
The IAF Ensign is flown on the peak or gaff while the appropriate rank flag of the Air Officer Commanding (AOC) at the mast head

10 On IAF Stations
At the Station Headquarters the IAF Ensign is flown on the peak or gaff while appropriate rank flag of the Officer Commanding the Station is flown at the mast head